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17 December 1981

TALKING POINTS

Prospects

1. There has been a definite escalation in the use of force by the regime; military rather than police units led the attack in Gdansk. The fact that Radio Warsaw has publicized riots and casualty figures indicates a regime attempt to contain rumors, and an intention of striking deterrent fear in the population.
2. Glomp's statement condemning martial law and disassociating the Church from the regime will increase the regime's difficulties in preventing an escalation of violence.
3. The recent developments indicate that the population is becoming more and more aroused against the regime, and that the latter is having increasingly difficult time in asserting its authority. ~~Glomp's statement will complicate this task.~~ Silesia and the Gdansk area have traditionally been centers of labor militancy, and Silesia is the key to supplying Poland with critically necessary fuel.
4. The regime will probably have to use increasing force in the coming days, which will lead to a severe test of the loyalty of the troops.
5. Kulikov and other high Soviet military officers are very closely monitoring events as they unfold.

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